

Proclamation 6827 of September 21, 1995

**National Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Week, 1995**

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Just after the turn of the century, George Washington Carver, teacher, scientist, and intellectual leader at Tuskegee Institute, wrote, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." His words ring true for all Americans, but especially so for the students of our Nation's historically black colleges and universities. These institutions are a beacon of hope, a path to advancement, and a source of pride for African Americans and for everyone who values higher learning.

Founded on a commitment to equal opportunity and academic excellence, historically black colleges and universities have enabled countless members of our society to receive a quality education and to pursue their goals and careers. In every sector of our diverse and vibrant country—business, law, academia, medicine, science, the arts, and the military—graduates of these schools have made outstanding contributions to our Nation's progress.

These distinguished institutions have long provided a bridge to the American Dream for their alumni—many of whom are the first in their families to graduate from college. And while nearly all of America's 103 historically black colleges and universities are located in the South, our entire Nation has benefited from their legacy. Indeed, 27 percent of all baccalaureate degrees awarded to African Americans are granted by these schools, which represent only 3 percent of America's institutions of higher education.

It is their commitment to academic rigor and their dedication to empowering the minority community that have enabled historically black colleges and universities to build a proud tradition of excellence in this country. As centers of independent thought, black colleges hold out a promise to the young leaders of tomorrow—a promise that our Nation will continue to grow in wisdom, that the future will hold increased opportunity, and that education will open new doors to hope and prosperity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 1995, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and administrators, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring America's black colleges and their graduates, and I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the principles of justice and equality set forth in our Constitution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and nine-

ty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6828 of October 2, 1995

Child Health Day, 1995

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

In hospitals and homes across the country, children begin life free from the burdens of the world. With their eyes and minds open to every influence, they depend on their caregivers to help them take the first, tentative steps toward adulthood. Parents and other family members, communities and churches, educators and the media—all play a role in these crucial early years, providing young people with the direction they need to become happy, productive citizens.

Tragically, far too many children go without this essential love and guidance, living in homes, neighborhoods, and schools where they see and endure violence. One in five pregnant women is abused by her partner; millions of children each year are reported to public social service agencies as being neglected or abused; and in the decade between 1982 and 1992, the number of these reports increased 132 percent. We know that young men and women suffer lasting effects from such experiences—teen suicides have tripled in the last 35 years, and countless youth have grown up to continue the cycle of destructive behavior in their own relationships and families.

In recognition of these heartbreaking realities, the theme of Child Health Day, 1995, is the elimination of violence. As our Nation observes this special day, let us renew our commitment to America's children and rededicate ourselves to ending the physical and emotional mistreatment that damage self-esteem and well-being. Solutions to the plague of violence lie within our own society, and we can find hope in the partnerships forming among public health and mental health professionals, schools, law enforcement officers, religious groups, child care experts, and community leaders. Their efforts, aided by the extensive Federal network already in place, will help to strengthen families and instill in our young people the ambition and spirit that has always driven America forward.

To emphasize the importance of nurturing children's growth and development from birth to maturity, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 143), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 2, 1995, as Child Health Day. On this day, and on every day throughout the year, I call upon my fellow Americans to deepen their commitment to protecting children, taking the necessary steps to meet our obligations to them and to our Nation's future.